



**FSU-WESTERN:** Several days of dry weather prevailed in Russia and Ukraine, helping winter and spring grain harvesting. The greatest delays in harvesting were confined to a narrow area extending from the central Ukraine northeastward into the Central Black Soils Region of Russia, where precipitation amounts ranged from 25 to 50 mm. Unseasonably warm, dry weather continued in southeastern Ukraine and returned to southern Russia, stressing corn and sunflowers. Extreme maximum temperatures in these areas ranged from 32 to 36 degrees C, accelerating crop development. Elsewhere, intermittent showers (10-25 mm or more) slowed winter grain harvesting in Belarus, Latvia, and Estonia, but favored summer crop development. In July, wet weather prevailed over northern, central, and western Ukraine, delaying winter wheat harvesting, but providing abundant soil moisture for summer crop development. In contrast, July precipitation was well below normal (less than 50 percent of normal) in southeastern Ukraine, stressing corn and sunflowers that advanced through reproduction during the month. In Russia, unseasonably warm, dry weather prevailed over southern areas (North Caucasus and lower Volga Valley) from July 11-28, favoring rapid winter wheat harvesting, but increasing stress on summer crops advancing through reproduction. Farther north, near- to above-normal precipitation was observed in northern Russia during July, benefiting spring grains that advanced through reproduction and immature winter grains. Elsewhere, above-normal precipitation in the Baltics and Belarus followed June's unfavorable dryness, improving growing conditions for spring-sown crops.